



TOWN MEETING PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011 7:30PM

Present: John D. Leone, Moderator, James M. O'Connor- Asst. Moderator,
Susan Elberger, Hugh McCrory, John L Worden III

1. Introductions were made since this was our first meeting.
2. Proposed Warrant Article(s) for 2011 Annual Town Meeting
 - a. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Bylaws, Title 1, Article 1, Section 10 (c)
Votes: To provide that, whenever a vote of two-thirds of the Town Meeting Members present and voting is required on any matter, the Moderator may declare a motion passed by a voice vote of at least two-thirds in favor and a standing vote need not be taken unless required by law or these By-Laws, or take any action thereto.

Mr. Leone mentioned that other towns have adopted similar provisions.
Mr. McCrory expressed concerns about counting accuracy and proposed no change from the present procedures. Mr. Worden proposed that "at the request of 5 voters" be inserted.

As amended for our committee vote:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Bylaws, Title 1, Article 1, Section 10 (c)
Votes: To provide that, whenever a vote of two-thirds of the Town Meeting Members present and voting is required on any matter, the Moderator may declare a motion passed by a voice vote of at least two-thirds in favor and a standing vote need not be taken unless required by law or these By-Laws, or requested by five voters or take any action thereto.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 against.

2. Proposed Warrant Article(s) for 2011 Annual Town Meeting (continued)

- b. To see if the Town will vote to amend the By-Laws, Title 1, Article 1, Sec. 2 to provide that the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting shall remain open for 60 days before the beginning of such meeting; or take any action related thereto.

Mr. Leone proposed that this time-frame be established in the By-Laws to ensure that the Warrant be opened for a sufficient time. Although concerns were raised about the later closing date not providing enough time for scheduling discussion and review of the Warrant articles by the various committees. Mr. Leone commented that the Town Meeting actually begins on the day of the town election and the date for the warrant closure would provide for at least two-weeks beyond the election before the Town Meeting members would gather for deliberation. It was decided to replace "beginning of such meeting" with Annual Town Election.

As amended for our committee vote:

To see if the Town will vote to amend the By-Laws, Title 1, Article 1, Sec. 2 to provide that the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting shall remain open for 60 days before the Annual Town Election; or take any action related thereto.

Vote: 5 in favor, 0 against.

1. New Business

Mr. McCrory suggested that the Oath of Office be projected during the swearing in of new and re-elected Town Meeting members. Mr. McCrory also proposed that the Moderator be required to disclose the number of people on the list when there is motion for Termination of Debate. These matters were discussed but no vote was taken.

4. A follow-up meeting would be arranged so that we could review the submitted Warrant articles to take a final vote.

Respectfully submitted for your review,

James M. O'Connor